

MAR 30 1999

THE BAPTIST

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

#BXNFMXY
#000029103256#
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620

CARRIER ROUTE 39
005-DTM 3-25
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL 50000

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MARCH 25, 1999

VOL. 123

No. 7

Journeymen conquer fears to tour world

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Missionary journeymen considered the possibilities of experiencing loneliness in an Asian metropolitan city; dining on monkey brains in India; failing to learn a new language in Europe; remaining forever single in Africa; encountering piranhas in South America; and other fears that might accompany a young adult's commitment to serve two years in international missions.

However, 71 college graduates pushed such fears aside and committed to take the gospel to a lost world during a commissioning service in late February at Cool Spring Church, Mechanicsville, Va.

The missionaries comprise the first journeyman group to be sent from the International Mission Board (IMB) in 1999. A journeyman is a single college graduate who is at least 21 years old, but under 30 prior to journeyman training.

The journeymen, who will work on each continent, will be joining a missionary force already in place: career missionaries, International Service

Corps workers, previously commissioned journeymen and others. Some will serve in support roles, teaching missionary kids or nationals; some will serve as coaches, nurses or veterinarians; some will be involved in direct evangelism and church planting;

some will go into the Last Frontier, areas with little or no access to the gospel.

"It's really humbling that God could use us to spread the gospel to a group of people who have never had it presented to them before," said a journeyman who will be backpacking into unreached areas in East Asia. He and several others cannot be identified because they will serve in countries that are not receptive to Christianity.

Bill Bullington, IMB vice president for overseas services, encouraged the journeymen to embrace Jesus Christ as their model, their master, their message and their might in all things.

"Everything that you want to see happen during your journeyman experience, everything you want to see God do during your journeyman experience, everything that you hope he'll do in and through you is dependent on the depth and daily freshness of your walk with him," Bullington said, "and I'm confident that he is going to do wonderful things through you."

He charged the new missionaries to cling to 1 Corinthians 16:13-14: "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love."

The commissioning service culminated a four-week orientation at the board's Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va. There, the journeymen learned how best to adapt to the new culture and language where they are going. They studied about the religious beliefs of people to whom they will go and how best to share the gospel with those people. They honed themselves spiritually with a desire to go deeply committed to God and the task to which he has called them.

"In two years, we trust that they will come again, rejoicing and bearing precious sheaves," said Robert Shehane, the board's associate director of missionary orientation, "and they come not only to share that, but to challenge us, other Southern Baptists, to be involved in God's great missionary plan."



LEADING OUT — Seventy-one International Mission Board journeymen worship God, singing "Go Ye Into All the World" during their commissioning service Feb. 21 at Cool Spring Baptist Church in Mechanicsville, Va. The missionaries will serve two years overseas. (BP photo by Warren F. Johnson)

ERLC to drop conference

AUSTIN, Texas (BP) — Only hours after the conclusion of the agency's annual conference, trustees of the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) decided March 4 to make this year's conference the last such event for the ERLC.

During their semiannual meeting in Austin, Texas, trustees voted to discontinue the traditional practice of holding the seminar that for 33 years attracted well-known speakers in the area of ethics, morality, and public policy, focusing on some aspect of applied Christianity.

The annual conference, which was held in various cities across the United States during its history, was successful in its night sessions but failed to draw strong crowds during its daytime sessions, Barrett Duke, director of conferences for the ERLC, said during a meeting of the trustees' program committee.

"We came to a decision that this type of education process was no longer the most effective way to present the kind of issues we were trying to address," Duke said.

The decision to cancel the conference was not reached overnight, he continued, noting the ERLC was committed to seeking alternative means to equip and encourage Southern Baptists to be "salt and light in their community."

Trustees indicated an interest in a new venue to allow ERLC staff members to reach a greater number of individuals with information similar to that which had been disseminated during the annual conferences, perhaps at the Baptist conference centers at Glorieta, N.M., or Ridgcrest, N.C.

Trustees also moved to cancel their semiannual meeting structure, dropping the meeting normally held each spring.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Exec. Comm. OK's hires

3

WMU holds annual meet

4

Keyboard Festival held

5

Letters to the editor

10

Looking back

10 years ago

Friends of ACTS, Inc. is unable to meet financial requirements for its proposed purchase of the ACTS network. Jimmy Allen, president of the Radio and Television Commission (RTVC), had announced his intentions to resign his position and manage the ACTS network if the sale had been completed.

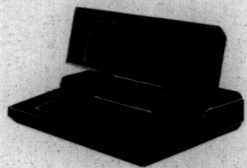
20 years ago

The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's New Work Award is presented to First Church, Pascagoula, in recognition of the church beginning an International Sunday School class. The new class began as an outgrowth of conversational English classes.

50 years ago

Calvary Church, Waynesboro, organized six months ago, completes a \$25,000 building. D. M. Nelson, president of Mississippi College, delivers the dedication message. Since its organization, there have been 100 additions to the church — 36 by baptism. Jack J. Cranford is pastor.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H.
Perkins Jr.**
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Carl M. White

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATE
Florence Larrimore

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Renee Walley

BOOKKEEPER
Betty Anne Bailey

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Joylin Davis

ADVERTISING/PROOFREADER
Heather Cumberland

EDITORS EMERITI
Don McGregor
Guy Henderson

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Bettye Coward, Clinton;
Charles Dunagin, McComb
Larry Garner, Jackson;
David Petty, Jackson
Gary Richardson, West Point;
Heather Cumberland, secretary.

Postmaster: Send changes of address
to **THE BAPTIST RECORD**, P.O. Box
530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Send
news, communication, and address
changes to **The Editor, BAPTIST
RECORD**, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS
39205-0530 (601) 968-3800
Missrecord@aol.com

VOLUME 123 NUMBER 7
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$8.35 per
year payable in advance. Economy plans
available for cooperating Mississippi
churches. Periodicals postage paid at
Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State
Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items —
one calendar week prior to requested pub-
lication date. Advertising — two calendar
weeks prior to requested publication date.

A boycott is a boycott is a ...

The documentation was inarguable. There were approved and subsidized "Gay Day" celebrations, where homosexual and lesbian embraces (and worse) ruined long-planned family vacations for many people.

Formation of "gay pride" groups within the organization had the endorsement of top management, as did the inclusion of homosexual partners on health insurance policies and other employee benefit programs.

What was once considered a family destination was coming to be seen as an outpost of Sodom and Gomorrah. Outrage was expressed in many quarters. Someone needed to do something to stop the spread of this amoral movement in its tracks.

What could be done to get the attention of these purveyors of perversity? An idea was hatched: Hit 'em in the pocketbook.

Well-reasoned proposals came from messengers attending the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention — motions calling on Southern Baptists to spend our money some other place, away from these shameless, high-profile defenders of homosexuality and sundry other perversities.

The protagonists and antagonists were chosen. The enemy was identified. All that was left was to call for the vote to punish... the City of Orlando.

Yes, the scene of this latest "selective buying" proposal was Salt Lake City in 1998, not Dallas in 1997 where messengers voted overwhelmingly to boycott Disney Corporation. This time, the City of Orlando, site of the 2000 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, was targeted for essentially the same reasons as was Disney the year before.

Only this time, the outcome was very different.

The three motions from the Salt Lake City meeting to move next year's meeting somewhere other than Orlando were

referred to the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, where all three died a quiet death a few weeks ago with the explanations that the executive committee believes messengers to Orlando will "meet the challenge presented by worldliness that the Southern Baptist Convention has met in other convention cities," and "the faithfulness of Southern Baptists in keeping contractual agreements will be a positive and effective testimony for the cause of Christ to the hotel and motel industry."

Hmm. Let's see if we've got this straight. Disney supports homosexuals, therefore Disney is bad. Disney must be boycotted.

The City of Orlando supports homosexuals, therefore the City of Orlando is bad, but cannot be boycotted. Those pesky "contractual agreements," it seems, keep getting in the way.

The witness of Christ is elevated by boycotting one group, and elevated even higher by not boycotting another group guilty

of virtually identical transgressions, but with which we maintain "contractual agreements." Is that about right?

It would be appropriate, then, to presume from the executive committee's logic that entering into "contractual agreements" might just be a sly way of providing "positive and effective testimony" to the loathed Disney organization. Call it stealth witnessing, if you will.

It is sad that we have come to accept this type of incomprehensible doubletalk from our craven politicians in Washington, but it is sadder still when our denominational leaders expect us to accept such reasoning from them, too.

Southern Baptists had a chance to put our money where our mouth is, and the executive committee counted the price too high.

When is a boycott not a boycott? As we have learned to our everlasting national regret in recent months, it must depend on what the definition of "is," is.



We are living in a confused culture! Johnny Hart, cartoon artist of the syndicated B.C. comic strip is a practicing Christian. He loves the Lord and injects his faith into his B.C. characters.

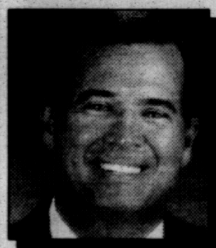
During the Easter weekend a few years ago he communicated the gloom of Crucifixion Friday, the loneliness of a long Saturday, and the mighty acts of God on Resurrection Sunday.

It was a sincere testimony of the significance of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

"Foul!" cried the Los Angeles Times newspaper. "Foul indeed!" shouted other papers. The depiction was "too Christian." Consequently, several large city editors refused to print Hart's comic strip.

Now I'm just wondering: It's okay to print the grizzly details of cult murders in L.A.? It's major news if Madonna wants to be a man and Michael Jackson wants to be a woman? It's a sign of social decorum, for the National Endowment for the Arts to make headlines when an artist's painting of Christ on a cross submerged in a vat or

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL:



Celebrate!

*By Dean Register, president
Mississippi Baptist Convention*

urine? But it's "too Christian" for a comic strip to get serious about the greatest event the world has ever known?

America may be speeding down the information highway, but it's heading for a moral dead end also. It's been said that our culture doesn't believe in going anywhere slowly. So, I guess we're going nowhere fast!

My friend Rick Peden understood the need to be a faithful witness too. Rick loved Jesus. He served on the Board for the Baptist Children's Village.

He had a very successful medical practice, but he knew the difference between success and significance.

He was a faithful brother in Christ to me. We often fellowshiped and dreamed of ways to impact others for the cause of Christ.

He was unafraid to dive in the deep water for the Lord. Too many of us spend our years in the muddy shallows.

Rick was sometimes over his head but God always uses a man who is unafraid to launch into deep waters for his glory.

Last August Rick called to let me know that six medical assistants in his clinic had trusted Christ as Lord of their lives and wanted to be baptized outdoors in his ranch lake. He asked me to perform the baptisms. I joined him at his ranch.

We walked to the edge of the lake with the new believers. We shared Scripture, sang, and prayed.

Then Rick said to the individuals being baptized, "Look across the lake and you'll see a large cross I've erected. It reminds me of Jesus' sacrifice for our sins. Beyond the cross, however, is the empty tomb. Jesus is alive forevermore!"

Seven days later Rick suffered a massive heart attack and died. In a flow of tears I rejoiced to know that because of Jesus' resurrection my friend was looking into the face of Jesus himself.

The crucifixion and resurrection of Christ is the central theme of the New Testament.

We have every reason to celebrate! It's the greatest news the world can hear.

Our culture may criticize our exuberance, and pundits may cry "Foul!" So what? We don't receive our motivation from the world.

We receive it from the One who saves the world by his grace. Hallelujah. Christ is risen!!

Executive committee okays MBCB hires

By Tim Nicholas
MBCB Communications Director

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) executive committee, meeting March 18 in Jackson, approved the hiring of three new staff members; heard of the administrative move of another staffer; and voted on distribution of the 1998 Cooperative Program Challenge Budget.

Staff additions included:

- Keith Gordon as consultant in the Department of Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries.

- Harvey Ellis as youth Discipleship Training and church recreation consultant in the Discipleship and Family Ministries Department.

- Beverly Parrish as associate Baptist Student Union (BSU) director at the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

MBCB executive director-treasurer Jim Futral also announced that Tom Prather would move from his position as ALERT the World Coordinator to become associate director of the Mississippi Brotherhood Department.

Prather will retain his work in developing a coaches fellowship. The area of sports evangelism will be transferred to Don Lum, consultant in the MBCB Evangelism Department.

Prather and Jim Didlake, Brotherhood Department director, will work together in dividing responsibilities within that

department, according to Futral. Futral also announced that he was expanding the MBCB Partnership Missions Office to department status, with former Brotherhood Department director Paul Harrell becoming the full-time director.

That office had been a part-time position, but with partnership ministries growing at a fast clip it needed more attention, said Futral.

Keith Gordon comes to MBCB from Jefferson City, Mo., where he has served since 1995 as a preaching and worship consultant with the Missouri Baptist Convention.



Gordon

A native of Picayune, Gordon is a graduate of Southeastern Junior College and William Carey College in Hattiesburg.

He earned the master of divinity and doctor of ministries degrees from New Orleans Seminary in New Orleans.

He was pastor of East Columbia Church, Columbia, 1981-95; Centerville Church, Soso, 1977-81; Big Creek Church, Laurel, 1972-76; and Union Church, Bay Springs, 1966-72.

Gordon and his wife, the former Judith Faye Holifield, have two grown children. His father is G.H. Gordon, pastor of Shiloh Church, Mt. Olive.

Harvey G. Ellis II, replaces Wes Pegues, who last year moved into a new position as MBCB computer ministry consultant.

A native of Tupelo, Ellis is a graduate of Mississippi College. He earned a master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary and is enrolled in the master of marriage and family therapy program at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson.



Ellis

Ellis has been minister of students at First Church, Clinton, since 1990. Earlier he served there as associate minister of activities/youth, 1984-85.

Other work includes minister of students/singles at First Church, Tifton, Ga., 1988-90;

minister of youth at Superior Ave. Church, Bogalusa, La., 1986-88; and associate activities minister at Midway Church, Jackson, 1983.

Ellis is married to the former Sonji Staton.

Beverly Parrish will work with Ole Miss BSU Director Keith Kating as his associate.

Parrish is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas. She earned the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas.

She has been part-time design intern for Student Discipleship Ministries in Burleson, Texas, since 1995, and has also been part time student missions intern for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas, 1996-1998.

Parrish served as an admissions counselor for Baylor,

from 1992-93. She was community education coordinator for Brazosport College from 1994-95. She was BSU intern director for Alvin Community College and Brazosport College in Angleton, Tex., 1993-94.



Parrish

The executive committee heard a report that the 1998 Cooperative Program Challenge Budget totaled \$1,242,812.

The 50% designated for Christian education was delivered in January to the three Mississippi Baptist colleges — Mississippi College, William Carey College, and Blue Mountain College.

The executive committee approved distribution of the remainder of the challenge budget.



THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST Record

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MARCH 25, 1999

VOL. 123

No. 7

Messenger
cards available
for SBC

Messenger cards for the 1999 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in Atlanta June 15-16 are now available from the office of the executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

Messenger cards will be mailed only to churches that request the cards for members planning to attend the 1999 SBC meeting.

For more information and to request messenger cards, contact the MBCB executive director's office (601) 292-3201 or toll-free outside Jackson at (800) 748-1651, extension 201.

Prayer walk witness



Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union members (from left) Dolores Renfrow, Mary Lou Ellis, and Jeanette Davis share their Christian witness with an unidentified resident of West Park community in Jackson while on a March 16 prayer walk through the neighborhood. Please turn to page four for more information on the event. (Photo by Carl M. White)

The entire international missions challenge portion of \$310,703, will be designated to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

The North American missions challenge portion of \$124,281, will go toward a missions project called Impact Northeast being developed by the New England Baptist conventions.

The 1998 Mississippi missions challenge portion of \$186,422, will go toward the partial cost of a Bible distribution project in the MBCB Evangelism Department and a media campaign designed by the board's Church Information Support (CIS) Team.

The Bible project's aim is to present a gospel witness to every person in Mississippi. Churches will be asked to distribute copies of "Celebrate Jesus 2000" New Testaments, which include witnessing tools, during Sept.-Dec. 1999.

Associations will be contacted by the Evangelism Department to develop participation plans. Churches may purchase the Bibles for about 65 cents each.

The rest of the Mississippi missions challenge funds will be used by the CIS Team for filming and distribution of television spots.

In other business, the Executive Committee

- approved sale of the East Central Community College BSU building in Decatur for \$1,800, to be removed in preparation for a new building.

- approved Gary Reichenbach of Humphreys Association, pastor of First Church, Isola, to fill the unexpired board term of Greg Clemts, who moved to Vicksburg.

Miss. WMU holds annual meeting in Clinton

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

As many as 800 members of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), as well as pastors, associational directors of missions, current and retired missionaries, and parents of missionaries, were inspired by testimonies and worship under the theme "Be Transformed," during the 120th annual WMU meeting, March 16-17 at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.



Bakke

During the business session, Rebecca Williams of Gautier was re-elected to her third one-year term as state president, and Kay Hodge of Hernando was re-elected recording secretary. Diane White of Meridian was elected vice-president.

Featured speakers were Mississippi native Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) in Richmond, Va.; his wife, Bobbye Rankin, also a native Mississippian; and Brian Bakke, pastor of the Uptown Baptist Church in Chicago, Ill.

"The power of God was made so evident, especially through each of the speakers," said Kay Cassibry, WMU executive director.

"We saw how God is at work internationally when Jerry and Bobbye Rankin spoke; in Chicago, when Brian Bakke spoke; and locally, when Linda Smith of Calvary Church (Jackson) spoke," Cassibry said.

The Rankins spoke of the growing opportunities around the world to carry the Gospel to previously unreached people groups.

"God is calling the cream of the crop once again," Bobbye Rankin said in reference to the record numbers of missionaries being appointed by IMB.

"These new missionaries are not asking, 'What do I want to do with my life?' but 'God, what is it going to take to reach those unreached people?'"

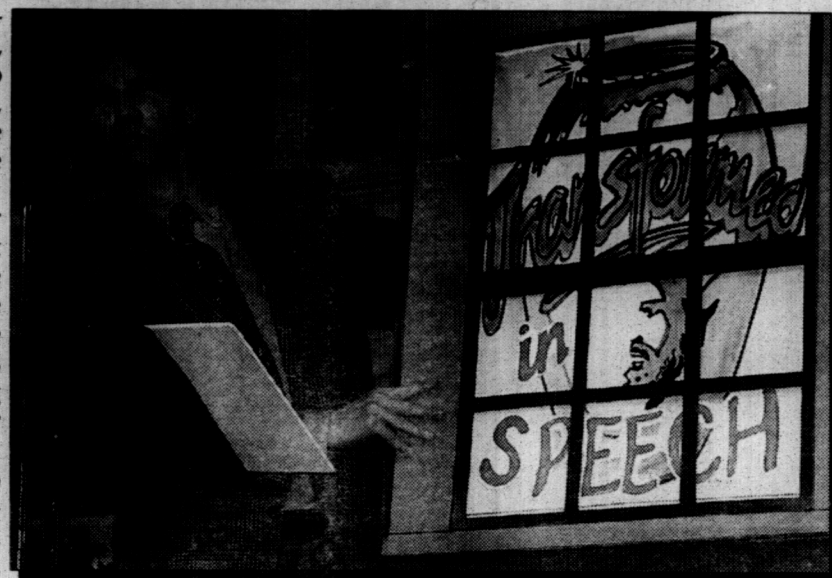
Bakke is the director of New Flight Arts at Uptown Church. He spoke of the creative methods they have developed to use art as a tool for reaching diverse people in inner city Chicago.

"Our church has two English-speaking services, a Cambodian-, Vietnamese-, Russian-, Bulgarian-, and Spanish-speaking service in the building," Bakke said.

In addition, he said Uptown Church is involved in other language ministries outside their buildings. Their newest ministry is to Hindu-speaking people.

"We're just your typical Southern Baptist Church," Bakke said, with a grin.

Steve and Ruth Glaze, professors of art



Steve Glaze

at Mississippi College in Clinton, presented the theme interpretation for each of the three sessions.

Karen Hardy, minister of music and youth at First Church, Collins, led music for each of the sessions.

The Mississippi Singing Churchmen brought special music during the March 16 evening session.

The 121st WMU annual meeting is planned for March 17-18, 2000 at Emmanuel Church, Grenada.

"We hope by changing to a Friday and Saturday to be able to reach some younger women who are not able to get away during the week," Cassibry said.

For more information, contact the Mississippi WMU at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



Bobbye Rankin

Miss. WMU leads prayer walk to construction sites

JACKSON, Miss. (local reports) — Around 35 women — and a few men — took part in a prayer walk through the West

Park community of inner city Jackson in the late afternoon of March 16 following the first session of the 120th annual meeting of the

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU).

The West Park community is the location of two lots where WMU members and the Habitat for Humanity organization are planning to build two homes during a housing blitz scheduled for the week of July 11.

Linda Smith, minister of missions at Calvary Church, Jackson, which is located in West Park, prepared maps for both walking and

riding through the neighborhood. All of the routes ended at the two construction lots on the corner of Roseneath and Robinson Roads.

As the women and men fanned out through the neighborhood, they prayed for the various ministries planned during the housing blitz, and for the people in the neighborhood who need to know Christ's love.

Gathering at the habitat site, testimonies were shared of witnessing to residents, sharing a hug with children, and meeting other Christians who rejoice at WMU and Habitat's joint project in the neighborhood.

During the housing blitz in July, various ministry efforts are planned, including a tent revival each evening in Poindexter Park; a health fair; sports camps for young people; back yard Bible clubs; and evangelistic teams visiting neighborhood residents.

Committees are currently at work planning each of the activities, and are seeking church groups and individuals interested in participating.

For more information contact the Mississippi WMU at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



NEIGHBORHOOD PRAYER — Participants in the Prayer Walk through West Park community form a prayer circle on one of the lots where WMU and Habitat for Humanity will build houses this summer during the week of July 11. (Photo by Carl M. White)

Futurist sees changes in 'post-modern' era

RALEIGH, N.C. (ABP) — People will become less interested in the theological debates that have dominated the Southern Baptist controversy in the past 20 years as society moves from the modern to the "post-modern" era, a North Carolina futurist believes.

Cassidy Dale, the director of the Office of Research for N.C. Baptists, is believed to be the only trained futurist working in denominational life.

Dale said current trends illustrate changes that will take place as society moves from the modern to the "post-modern" era. The post-modern era includes a new culture of religious thinking that has arisen in the 1990s, he said.

Terms such as fundamentalist, conservative, moderate, and liberal are modern terms that don't apply to post-modern people, he said. "They have no interest in those lines of thinking or in those theologies," he explained. "We have no post-modern Christian theology yet."

Post-modern people also can't be pigeonholed as traditional or progressive. "They have an entirely different understanding of the world," he said.

That difference does not mean churches cannot reach post-modern people, however. "The post-modern mindset is extremely God-friendly and will be with us for a long time," Dale said.

Dale said churches need to understand that post-modern people are looking for community, stories, and spirituality.

They want "a real, authentic, deep, intricate, rich community with other believers," he said. It will be more than just a group of people who meet for church on Sunday mornings, he added.

Post-modern people look for stories because they don't identify with membership in a group, he said. "Instead they are asking, 'What is the story of my life and what is the story of my faith journey?'"

Congregations need to understand that they are "a particular people, in a particu-

lar situation, with a particular call, heading for a particular destination," he said. "Churches with the clearest idea of their story are the churches post-modern people will want to affiliate with."

In their spiritual quest, post-modern people are searching for "a mysterious spirituality rather than a rational religiousness," Dale said.

"A lot of churches don't have much to say on the topic of mysterious spirituality or the Holy Spirit," he said, "and so many people turn to other religions or beliefs in an attempt to find God."

"Churches look at New-Agers and others and ask, 'What is wrong with them?' My question is, 'What is wrong with us?'"

"The question is, do you have those things in your church and can you reach out to people who are searching for those types of things?" Dale said.

"That may take a real honest evaluation of your ministry to answer that question he added."

As churches seek to answer that question, Dale wants to help give them a clearer picture of how the future might look.

One way he will do that is through regional projects involving local Baptist leaders. The first such project in north central North Carolina is already underway.

"I hope to build networks in the state by region around particular issues," he said.

The projects are called "Our Common Future."

"They recognize that churches, associations, and the state conventions all have a common future oriented around ushering in the kingdom," he said.

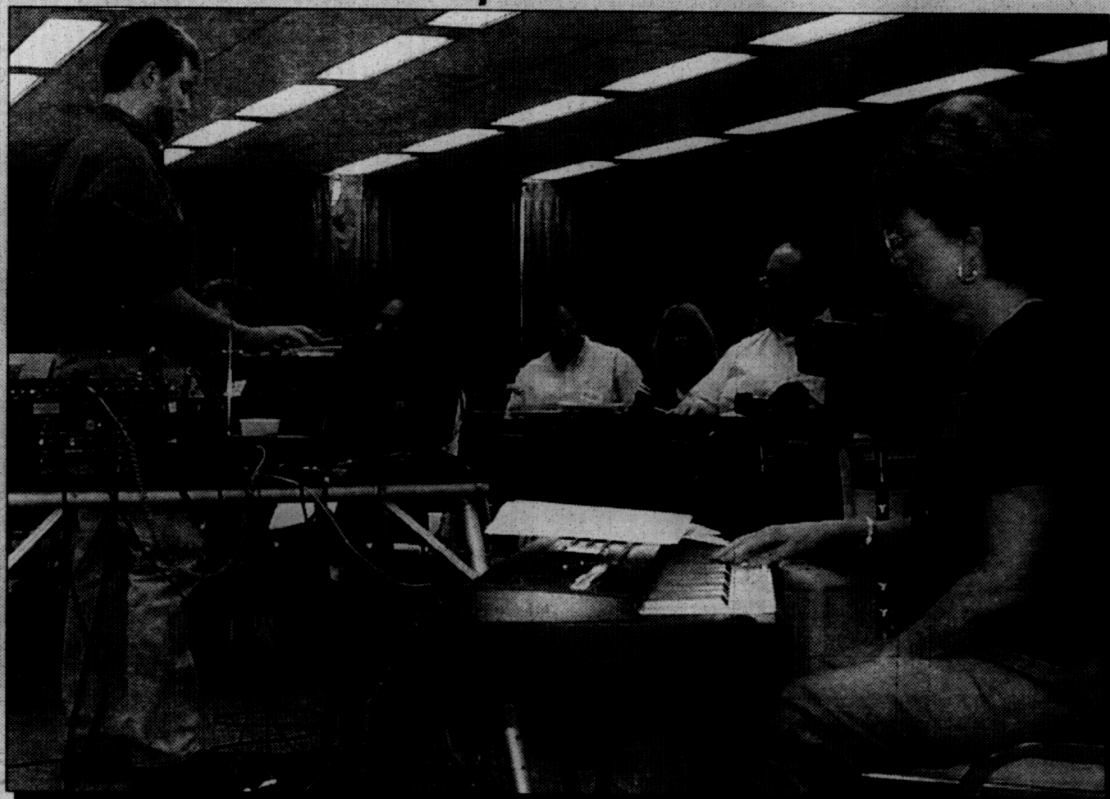
Baptists can use the possible

scenarios developed by the projects to determine ministry opportunities.

"There's nothing worse than a church that answers questions that people aren't asking," Dale said.

"Unfortunately, we do that far too much," he pointed out.

Musicians put skills to test



Participants receive hands-on experience at the Electronic Keyboard Festival at the Baptist Building in Jackson March 12. Clinician Todd Billingsly of Miami, Fla., demonstrates such topics as transposing music, enhancing hymn accompanying, and converting recorded tracks into printed music using Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI). Next year's festival will change to "Church Organist and Pianist Workshop" March 10-11, 2000, at First Church, Clinton. For more information, contact Dot Pray, consultant in the MBCB Church Music Department at (601) 292-3272 in Jackson, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. (Photo by Joylin C. Davis)

CHURCH — THE FEEDING PLACE

Among the many other things that the Bible teaches a church ought to be, one thing is for sure — it's supposed to be a feeding place.

At that memorable meeting with Jesus on the seashore, Peter was told by Jesus that if he loved him he would feed his lambs — feed his sheep. The command in Scripture is that the pastor is to feed the flock over which the Lord has made him the overseer.

The congregation, on the other hand, is to come with an appetite to be filled by the Lord. It is important that there be a hunger and a thirst for the things of God. When the church comes together it is for a feeding, a filling in many different ways.

The needs we have to be filled are spiritual, personal, relational, social, emotional, and even physical. God has provided that when the congregation comes together all of our needs, all of our appetites, can be ultimately satisfied.

I was on my way to a preaching assignment early one Sunday morning as I passed a huge pasture where there were several hundred cows. Nearly all of them were



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

around the feeding trough. The food had just been unloaded and they were lined up all the way around the table and had apparently just said the blessing and they were eating.

It was a good-looking, healthy herd and they seemed to be enjoying the meal. Most of them were there, but looking out across the pasture there were a few strays that had not come to eat. Those single, solo souls got my attention.

I wondered why they had not come to eat. One cow was standing near the highway and had I not been in a hurry, I would have pulled over and inquired, "Why aren't you up there eating?"

I suppose there are many answers I could have received from that dear cow. Possibly she attends another feeding trough. It may be that she was

sick and when you don't feel good, you don't eat right.

I even wondered if she might be mad at some of the other cows and in order to spite them she would stay away and starve herself. It occurred to me that her real problem might have been that she didn't have anything new to wear.

That's why the cows gather around the trough in the first place, you know — to see what each other has on.

On down the road but in the same pasture, there stood an old bull. He was not even faced toward the feeding trough, and I had stood it as long as I could.

I pulled over, got his attention, and just asked him point blank, "Why don't you get over there and eat with the rest of them?"

With a smirk, he tossed his head over towards the feeding place and said, "Look at all the

hypocrites over there!" I looked and then asked, "What do you mean?" "That's all they are — hypocrites," he said.

He went on, "They go up there and fill themselves up and then prance around the pasture all day long. They don't do anything worthwhile."

I said, "Well they do give milk." He responded, "Well, not all the time, maybe once or twice a day." I asked the bull, "Do you not realize that you are hurting yourself by not going to eat, as well as being a bad example for the younger calves who may be following your example?"

He looked at me with disdain, unwilling to respond with his voice, but his eyes said, "God has called me to live a separated life!" I nodded my head so that he would understand that I understood his position.

I once again looked out across the pasture and saw the several hundred cows that were enjoying one another, filled up with fresh hay.

I'm sure that they didn't know the exact words, but they seemed to be saying, "I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'"

I drove on my way, agreeing with that happy herd.

Volunteers requested for Hong Kong, Taiwan

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Volunteers from a cross-section of church positions are needed in Hong Kong for a summer 1999 evangelistic campaign, said W.H. and Doris Jackson, International Mission Board (IMB) crusade coordinators in Asia.

With Hong Kong now under the control of mainland China, time for evangelism may be running out, Jackson said.

For more information, call the IMB partnership evangelism office at Southwestern Seminary at (817) 923-1921, ext. 4871.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Mark Mayo was licensed to preach on Dec. 27. He is pictured receiving a certificate from Leon Young, chairman of deacons of Walnut Grove Church, Walnut Grove.



Mayo and Young

now available for the position of interim, bivocational pastorate, and supply work. McCollum can be reached at 829 Pine Grove Rd., Magee MS 39111 or phone (601) 849-2052.



Steele Church, Forest, ordained Larry Crimm recently as deacon. Pictured (from left) are John Boggan, pastor; Crimm, his wife Ronena, and their children Ashley, Aleshia, and Alex.



Kyle and Smith

Grover Kyle (left) was presented a pin for 38 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School at Mount Vernon Church, Leflore County. Robert Smith, pastor, is pictured on right.

Charles McCollum has retired from the full time pastorate, and is



Barnett and Madison

Stacey Madison (right) was licensed to the ministry by Sardis Church, Philadelphia, on Jan. 24. Madison is now serving the church as interim pastor. Also pictured is Stanley Barnett, former interim pastor.



Sardis Church, Philadelphia, licensed Levy Shoffner (right) to the ministry on Jan. 24. Also, pictured is Stanley Barnett, former interim pastor.

Thomas Henry Maxwell dies at 92

Thomas Henry Maxwell, 92, a retired teacher and minister, died March 11 at Beverly Healthcare Southwest. Funeral services were held March 13 at Hartman Funeral Home and burial was in Bogue Chitto Cemetery in Lincoln County.

Maxwell was born in Monticello. He graduated from Mississippi State University. He taught vocational agriculture until he was ordained into the ministry at Ruth Church in 1950, and began serving small country churches while still pursuing his career in teaching.

After God called him into the ministry, he pastored churches in Lawrence, Lincoln, Franklin, Pike, Amite, Walthall, and Rankin

counties until his retirement.

He is survived by Mary Elizabeth Brister Maxwell of McComb, his wife of 70 years; sons, Tom B. Maxwell of Austin,

Texas, and Glyn Maxwell of Woodville; daughters, Sue Brent of Natchez and Ruth Guyton of McComb; 11 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.



Mona Faith

Country and Gospel Jubilee
Saturday, June 19, 1999

7 P.M. at the Texas Troubadour Theatre

2416 Music Valley Drive
Nashville, TN 37214

Tickets \$15.00 (\$5.00 for children)

Group rates available.

Call: 1-615-885-0028

Clap Your Hands! Tap Your Toes! Renew Your Spirit!



Mona Faith
(Mrs. Gene Fant, Sr.)
Clinton, MS
Available for
Concerts,
Special Events.
Call 601-925-5116.



Custom Church
Interiors, Inc.

PEWS

Pew Refinishing & Reupholstering
Stain Glass • Carpet • Lights
Painting • Baptisries • Steeples
Complete Renovations

1-800-654-1294

Jackson, MS 601-957-8844



FOOTSTEPS OF PETER AND PAUL CRUISE

JUNE 17 - 28, 1999

12 DAYS - AIR, LAND, AND SEA.

Athens - Corinth - Ephesus - Philippi - Thessalonika
Rhodes - Istanbul and ending in Rome where
Peter and Paul are buried.

also

HOLY LAND/ EGYPT

September 20 - October 1, 1999

Call for brochures.

Tom Larrimore
1156 Winnrose St.
Jackson, MS 39211
(601) 956-1891

My travel experience
is your peace of mind.

Senior Adult CELEBRATIONS! • Autumn 1999

COMING TO PIGEON FORGE, TENNESSEE!



Celebrating the
Faithful



Call for a FREE Color Brochure!

1-800-475-0819

SEPTEMBER 13 - 16 • BEN HADEN

SEPTEMBER 20 - 23 • JACK GRAHAM

OCTOBER 4 - 7 • DAVID JEREMIAH

NOVEMBER 1 - 4 • TED TRAYLOR

NOVEMBER 8 - 11 • FRANK POLLARD



ministry of
phil waldrep
evangelistic
association

AS LOW AS
\$129* PER
PERSON
INCLUDING
LODGING!

*4 per room with \$10 Early
Bird Discount applied.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 25, 1999

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.



Gary Permenter
Worship Leader



Kevin Williams
Music Worship Leader

Super Summer '99 July 19-23

Mississippi College & FBC, Clinton

Super Summer Mississippi is for the young person who is a mature and responsible Christian leader. Super Summer may not be for your entire group. Mississippi College and FBC, Clinton, are the hosts for Super Summer, July 19-23. Young people attending Super Summer Mississippi spend approximately 20 hours in evangelism and discipleship training. Quality youth leaders from our state lead our youth in study. Youth are trained in how to share their faith, how to have a quiet time, how to memorize scripture, how to find God's will for their lives, and more. They are also challenged and equipped to utilize their talents to penetrate their culture for Christian creative and effective ways. Throughout Super Summer young people are encouraged to use the freedom they have in Christ to change the world.

Financial Requirements

The total cost for Super Summer during the registration period is \$145 per student and adult; amount includes food, housing in the school dormitory, materials, and T-shirt. Due to construction at Mississippi College **SPACE WILL BE LIMITED THIS YEAR. DEADLINE DATE, JULY 8, WILL BE OBSERVED.**

Guidelines for all SS candidates

1. Demonstrates leadership qualities and is a growing Christian.
2. Faithful involvement in worship, Sunday School, and Wednesday night youth activities.
3. Complete at least one level of a discipleship study (i.e. Survival Kit, DiscipleYouth, DiscipleNow...).
4. Memorized a minimum of 10 scripture verses relating to discipleship, evangelism, or a disciple study.
5. Share their personal testimony with the youth group.
6. Share the Gospel with at least one person this year.
7. Completed at least the 8th grade in 1999, but not yet in college.
8. Agree to attend all SS sessions.

For more info call the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department
1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson 968-3800.

Church Facilities Workshop

April 13, 1999
8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Parkway Baptist Church
802 North Frontage Road
Clinton, Mississippi
924-9912

Church Facilities Workshop Registration Form

Cost: \$10 per person (includes lunch)

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Church/Vendor: _____
Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Contact Matt Buckles for more information: 968-3800
or 1-800-748-1651

Mail form to: Matt Buckles, Church Building Services
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

INTERNATIONAL FAMILY FESTIVAL

Saturday, June 5

(No admission fee)

Aiken Village, Starkville
(College View Street)

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

International Food Service

Moon Walk

Face Painting

Continuous Program with:

Juggling Dave Finnigan Family

Korean Children's Choir

Puppets, Music, Clowns

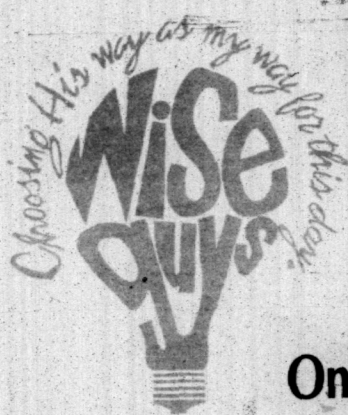


Woodland Hills Baptist Church, Jackson, 7 - 9 p.m.
with Korean and Spanish joint fellowship with refreshments
and Juggling Finnigan Family.

Sponsored by Discipleship and Family Ministry Department

A Study of Proverbs

**Older Children's Retreat
July 22-24**



**Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
Pass Christian, Miss.**

On this retreat we're going to learn:

Proverbs was written to help make us wise, not just so we'll be smart and know a lot, but so we'll know how to live and how to make right choices...choices that please God and help us get along with others.

This retreat is for those children who have completed grades 4-6.

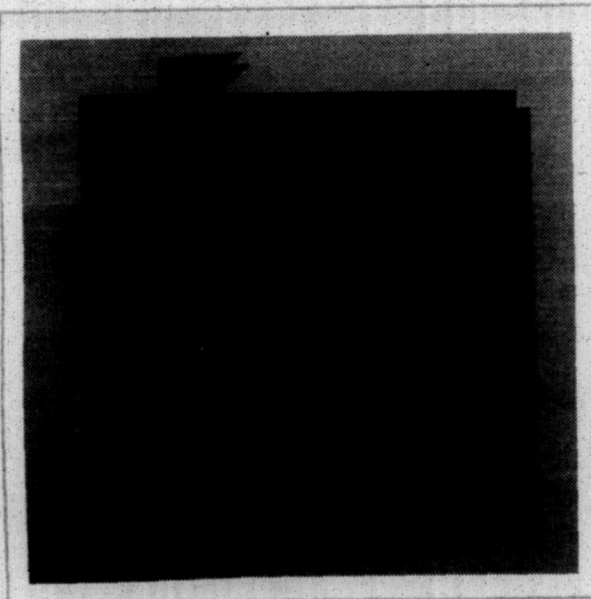
Cost: \$76 Registration opens March 1, 1999.

Plan now to go to the Older Children's Retreat '99.

For registration information, please contact Gulfshore Baptist Assembly at 228-452-7261. For program information, call the Sunday School Department at 1-800-748-1651.

Reverence and respect for God is the beginning of wisdom.

LAD/CRUSADER DAY 1999



April 24, 1999

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Cost: \$4

**Bring a sack lunch
(No meal will be provided)**

**Register Early!
Deadline: April 17
Maximum Attendance: 500**

**Central Hills Baptist Retreat
Kosciusko**

Come and meet our missionaries!

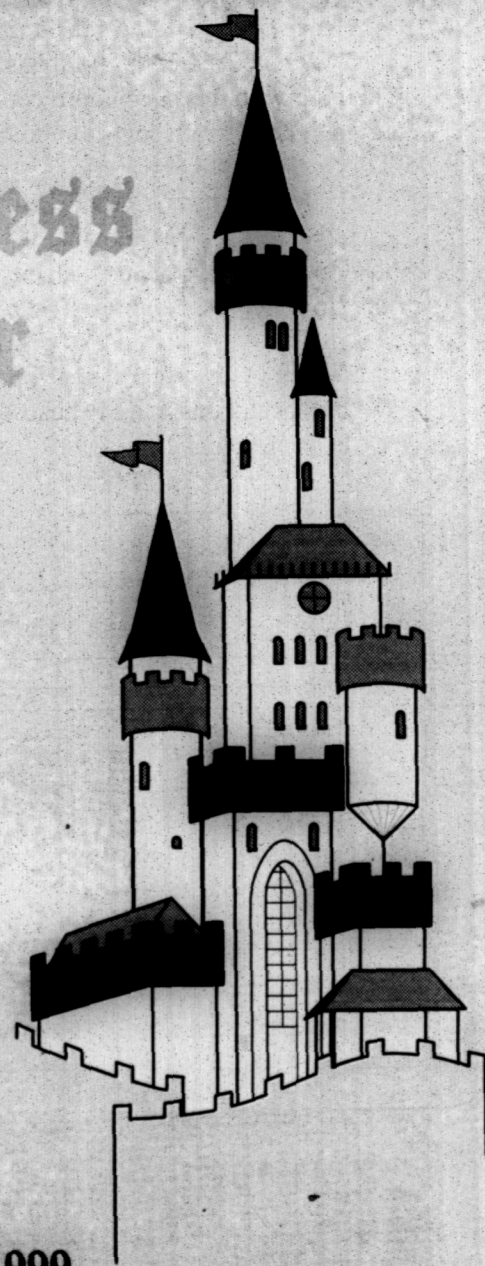
Call Brotherhood Department, MBCB, for more info:
968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651



**Hear Ye!
Hear Ye!**

**A royal proclamation to
all the daughters of THE KING
to attend**

**Princess
Power**



**Mississippi
Baptist
Secretaries
Conference**

**April 12-13, 1999
Camp Garaywa, Clinton, Miss.**

If you haven't received your
brochure, call
Kay McDonnell, 968-3800
or 1-800-748-1651

New Lodges Enhance Ministry of Central Hills

For the past 20 years, Central Hills Baptist Retreat in Kosciusko has seen the faces of thousands of individuals whose lives have been touched by Christ through the ministries of Mississippi Baptists. Initially, Central Hills served as a Royal Ambassador camp for boys. Don Gann, a former counselor of the camp in the late seventies and early eighties, described the early facilities as "rustic." Outdoor tents covered the grounds of Central Hills causing the accommodations to seem rather hot during the summer months when R.A. camp was held.

"It was a little frightening for the kids on the first night," said Gann, "they always knew some wild animal was going to come get them. After that, they got into it."

Campers, worry no more. Presently, men from Baptist churches across the state are engaging in a great effort to build two new lodges to accompany the one which was completed in 1986. These lodges will not only enable hundred of boys attending R.A. camp to experience the luxury of air conditioned facilities with indoor plumbing, but also allow many larger churches and other retreat groups to enjoy the horseback riding, fishing, canoeing, and numerous other outdoor activities Central Hills has to offer.

Terry Cross of State Boulevard Baptist Church in Meridian and Rudy Hurst of Woolmarket Baptist Church outside Biloxi have been working since the first day to coordinate this effort. Cross feels that the Lord has called him to do mission work by helping with this special project. "I believe that this will give them better and more comfortable facilities," he said regarding the building of the two new lodges.

Jerry Sanford, pastor, FBC, Sardis, feels it is a great privilege to be able to help knowing what the camp does for the boys whose lives are saved and changed. "We should be good stewards of the Lord's money and resources," he said.

The changes that are occurring at Central Hills mean a lot to the people who have been a part of the ministry of the camp. "I have a special place in my heart for Central Hills after working here," said Jason Bird, pastor of Fifteenth Avenue in Meridian.



*Jim Koonce of FBC Sardis erects
the walls of the new lodge.*

When these men who have so willingly given of their time and gifts look at the way they have impacted the lives of the boys who will enjoy the lodges, they, too, will have a special place in their hearts for Central Hills. They have not only been a factor in developing the growth of Central Hills, but also developing friendships of the other men.

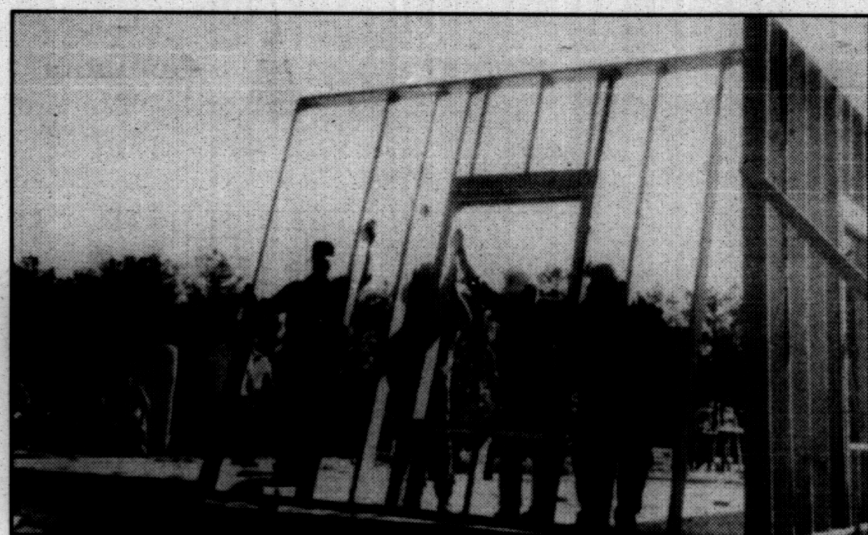
The fellowship that this mission opportunity gives is unparalleled in the eyes of the men who diligently work on the lodges. Many churches such as Fifteenth Avenue choose to partake in a construction mission trip such as this one each year. The

involvement at Central Hills serves as a unique opportunity to participate in the future of Mississippi youth. "Missions begins at home," said Bird.

Churches have been represented from the coast to the northern tip of Mississippi. Baptist men have been eager to give vacation time, their relentless labor, and mostly their Christian love to this ministry that will impact literally thousands who will now be accommodated thanks to men such as these. "I am thankful for all the volunteers that have come from all over Mississippi," said Cross.

The lodges are presently under construction and currently in need of many volunteers from churches or individuals who are willing to give a day or a few hours to help future campers at Central Hills find Jesus through leadership of Christian people. If you are interested, please call Jim Didlake in the Brotherhood Department at 1-800-748-1651 or Dan West at 601-289-9730.

Elizabeth Didlake
Public Relations Intern
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
and student at Mississippi College



Volunteers from across Mississippi lift a frame of the new lodge.



*David Kowall of Oakland Heights
Baptist Church builds frames for the
lodge wall.*



New Orleans Missions Tour

April 20

A one day tour of 3 mission
agencies and The New
Orleans Baptist Theologi
Seminary

\$30 (plus 2 meals)

**Departure Locations: Jackson and
Brookhaven**

(schedule: 6:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.)

New Orleans Mission Tour Registration Form

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Church _____

Association _____

Departure Location:

_____ Jackson (or) _____ Brookhaven

No. of Participants:

_____ x \$30 = _____ (amount enclosed)

Deadline for registration is April 9

Make checks out to:

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

(Please designate checks for Missions Tour)

Mail to:

WMU, PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Please designate checks for Missions Tour

Pray this day for...

March 26 - April 8, 1999

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

Remember as you pray - When the idea is not right. God says "No."
When the time is not right. God says, "Slow."
When you are not right. God says, "Grow."
When everything is all right. God says, "Go!"

Pray for the man who runs the car shop in Taichung, Taiwan, where missionaries take their cars for repair and upkeep. He and his wife are open to the gospel, but they have recently put a new and bigger "god shelf" in the shop's office. Pray for their salvation as well as salvation for his entire family.

Easter - Pray that Christians everywhere will celebrate Easter by sharing the good news that Jesus rose from the dead to become the Savior of the world and that He gives hope to all who believe in Him.

Thank you for praying for the volunteer team recently hosted by missionaries to Senegal, Phillip & Karen Brown and Tiffne Taylor. The team was involved in prayer-walking and other ministry opportunities. Two or three Village chiefs have indicated that they want their whole village to follow "The Jesus Way."

For Baptist Building Staff Planning Week (April 5-9). Pray for all the personnel who serve Mississippi Baptists in various responsibilities. Pray that our churches will use the different training opportunities and services the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board provides.

For the Sunday School Leadership Lab for Ministers of Education, Eagle Ridge Conference Center, Raymond (Sunday School). Pray that literacy work will begin among the Awadhi people of northern India and that audio-cassettes of the gospel will become available in their language.

Pray that the Lord will provide a mentor or discipler for each of the 90 new believers who were won to Christ during the last week of January, when a volunteer team from Oklahoma served in Rosario, Argentina.

Pray for an industrial area of Tianjin, China. Many of the factory workers have never heard the gospel. Pray that a strong Christian witness will be established in every factory.

Don Whalen is a church planter pastor in Rock Springs, Wyoming. Pray for additional workers to teach in the Sunday School and that it will grow. Pray about the need of a building. Members are currently renting and land is very expensive. Ask the Lord to provide opportunities to reach the community.

Pray for the churches and church starts in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, who have been notified that they can no longer use school classrooms for their Sunday worship services. Pray that God will open new doors and cause this "to work together for good" for each church and result in a greater spread of the gospel.

Pray for all the preparations being made for the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, GA, June 15-16. Pray that our churches will send their allowed number of messengers so that more people will be involved in the decisions of the convention.

For Youth Leadership Lab/Christian Performing Arts Festival, Morrison Hgts. BC, Clinton (D'ship & Family Ministry & Equipping Team).
For Leadership Training Conference, Gulfshore Assembly (Student Work)

For Youth Ringers Festival, Oak Forest BC, Jackson, (Church Music). For Church Weekday Education Clinic, FBC, Jackson (D'ship & Family Ministry)

The National Gambling Impact Study Commission is planning to issue its study report on the social and economic impacts of gambling by June 20. Pray that they can help Americans understand that gambling destroys individuals and families as well as the morals of the nation.

Pray that the Mississippi Baptist Convention's partnership with Maryland/Delaware, Ukraine and Honduras will be successful in starting new churches and encouraging existing churches. Pray that God will lead you as to whether you should volunteer to help some of the many projects requested by the churches in those areas.

Take a moment to send a card to encourage the children of our missionaries!



10-81
MISS LAURA HEARN
BP 1353, Lome, TOGO
Parents: James & Brenda, General Evangelism

11-92
MR. DREW BRASWELL
c/o William Sellers, 16 Crosswoods Road, Brandon, MS 39042
Parents: Larry & Alicia, Outreach Evangelism, SERVE IN BRAZIL

15-96
MR. MICAH PEACOCK
6 Glenhill Crescent, Cochrane, Alberta, T0L 0W3 CANADA
Parents: Kevin & Brenda, Theological Education

20-88
MR. JOHN MCCALL
P O Box 5864, Tanga, TANZANIA
Parents: Dennis & Margaret, Agriculture

24-91
MISS LAURA PURL
Mission Baptiste, 01 BP 580, Ouagadougou 01, BURKINA FASO
Parents: John & Amy, Financial Administration

25-88
MR. PHILIP M. HEARN
425 Ford Street, Columbia, MS 39429
Parents: James & Brenda, General Evangelism, SERVE IN TOGO

EXCEL: MISSION TRIP TRAINING FOR YOUTH AND LEADERS



This training is intended to train, motivate, challenge and help all youth and their leaders going on a mission trip this summer make the most of their missions opportunity.

April 30 - May 1, Camp Garaywa

5:30 p.m. Friday through Saturday 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$26 each
(includes lodging, meals and program)

For more information and to register, contact:
Tammy Anderson, WMU, PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205
601-968-3800 or 800-748-1651

HOUSE TOPS

Children's Retreat registration closed

Registration has closed for the 1999 Older Children's Retreat July 22-24 at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian. All available slots were filled in less than two weeks, according to coordinator Linda Reeves, consultant for the Sunday School

Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Registration for the 2000 Older Children's Retreat at Gulfshore July 20-22, 2000, will open March 1, 2000. Reeves strongly recommended early registration. The 2000 retreat

theme will be "Stuff," based on Luke 12:15.

For more information, contact Reeves at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3294 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Higher Education Appreciation Day/Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE) honored one student and one faculty member of William Carey College's Coast campus recently during the Twelfth annual HEADWAE program. Ashley Cronenberg, a senior elementary education major from Mobile, Ala., received special recognition from the Mississippi Legislature as the HEADWAE student honored at Carey College. Deborah



HEADWAE honorees

Chatham, an assistant professor of nursing from Pascagoula, received special recognition from the Mississippi Legislature as the HEADWAE faculty member honored from Carey College. Pictured (front row, from right to left) Chatham, and Cronenberg with parents Beverly Cronenberg; (back row, left to right) Arthur Cronenberg, and Victor Chatham, Deborah's husband.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I am trying hard to make a happy home while our children are young, but my husband chooses not to play any part in our union. I feel I can't make the marriage better, but I can't walk away either.

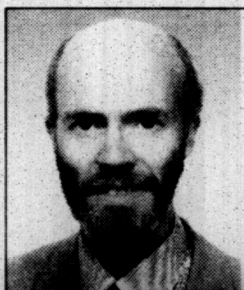
There's an old joke about hitting a mule between the eyes with a 2x4 to get his attention. Short of using the 2x4, what will get your husband's attention? You mention in your letter that you have tried separation and even discussed ending the marriage, to no avail. What will get his attention? Well, try putting the spotlight on what he does right and the times you enjoy living with him. Concentrate on what's good in your marriage and family life, and don't harbor negative feelings to be used as a weapon at some time in the future. He may be so stunned at your turnaround that you get his full attention. A word of caution: alcoholics and abusers are very difficult to work with on something like this. They are never wrong, and they like to cast themselves as victims to gain sympathy from others. If such is the case in your marriage, be

careful and seek advice from your pastor or a Christian counselor.

I am jealous of a good friend who once struggled like we do (money problems, etc.), but has now "made it big." I can't bring myself to visit her large new house in a prestigious neighborhood. How do I get over this feeling?

It's a good start that you have identified the problem as jealousy and recognized that life changes can take place in the middle of good friendships. You are grieving as your friend moves on and you begin to realize that life is not going to hand you everything you wanted. Take a few minutes to think of the things you do have — a nice (if not "large") house, your health, your intact family, and your possessions. What are the things with which God has blessed you in abundance? Study Phil. 4:8-9, 11-13; and the Tenth Commandment (Ex. 20:17). God included that final commandment because covetousness and jealousy prevent us from fully trusting him. Look to the Father, not worldly possessions, to find happiness.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



BEESON DIVINITY SCHOOL PRESENTS

The 10th Annual

Biblical Studies Lectures

J. GORDON McCONVILLE

"DEUTERONOMY: TORAH FOR THE CHURCH OF CHRIST"

Tuesday's
Sermon
"THE WORD
'DWELLING
RICHLIY"

Wednesday's
Lecture
"THE
WORD OF
LIFE"

Thursday's
Lecture
"THE
FORMATIVE
WORD"

(Held in
Beeson Divinity
Chapel starting
at 11:00 a.m.
each day.)

BEESON DIVINITY SCHOOL AND SAMFORD UNIVERSITY are pleased to present **J. Gordon McConville** as the tenth Biblical Studies lecturer. McConville is currently a Research Fellow and Senior Lecturer in the School of Theology and Religious Studies at Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education. He has written six books and co-written another, and published many articles and essays. His published work includes *Law and Theology in Deuteronomy* (1984), *Judgement and Promise: An Interpretation of the Book of Jeremiah* (1993), *Grace in the End: A Study in Deuteronomistic Theology* (1993), and he has co-written *Time and Place in Deuteronomy* (1994). He is also the general editor of *The European Journal of Theology*.

McConville's 1999 lectures, *Deuteronomy: Torah for the Church of Christ*, show how an important Old Testament book can be used in Christian thinking, preaching, and spirituality. For more information about the schedule or to request a brochure, contact Lyn Boyer at 1-800-888-8266.



SAMFORD UNIVERSITY
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35229-2252
(205) 870-2991
<http://beeson.samford.edu>

Beeson is affiliated with the National Association of Evangelicals and is accredited by The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. Samford University is an Equal Opportunity Institution and welcomes applications for employment and educational programs from all individuals regardless of race, color, sex, disability, age, or national or ethnic origin.



CHURCH BUSES

#1 MANUFACTURER
COMPETITIVE PRICING

SOUTHEASTERN BUS CO.

CLINTON, MS

1-800-423-9826

1-601-924-1982

ALL SIZES
SALES AND RENTALS

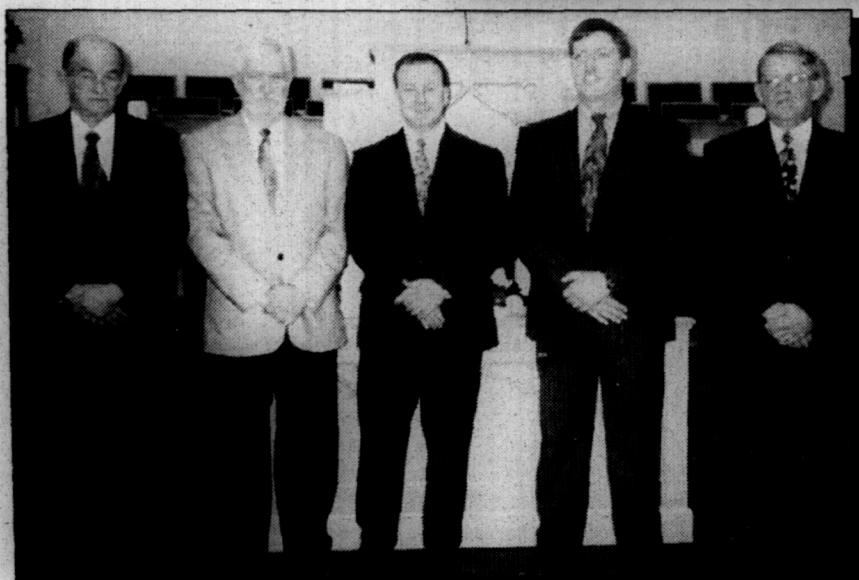
Exciting Career in Christian Retail Management

Excellent salary and benefits package available. Relocation will be required to one of over 80 book stores. Qualifications include: four-year college degree or comparable business management experience, outstanding leadership, computer skills, strong vision for the future, and active role in a Southern Baptist church. Send resume to: Retail Store Operations, Manager Training Search 127 19th Avenue, North, MSN 165 Nashville, TN 37234-0165 or fax to 615/251-3622

Baptist Book Stores Lifeway Christian Stores

owned and operated by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



Sylvarena Church, Wesson, recently held a deacon ordination service for (pictured, from left) Dan Weeks, Frank M. (Sonny) Walker, pastor Jon Vanlandingham, Larry Beeson, and Melvin Burns.

West Laurel Church, Laurel, has designated April 11 as Floyd Grice Appreciation Day. Grice has served the church as minister of music and activities for five years. Worship services will be held at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. A reception will be in the fellowship hall immediately after the evening service. Grice has served churches in Mississippi, Alabama, and South Carolina. Cary Worthington is pastor of West Laurel Church.

The music ministry of Escatawpa Church, Jackson Association, will present "Watch the Lamb," an Easter musical drama, on March 28 and April 2 at 7 p.m. For more information call (228) 475-2938. Greg Johnston is pastor.

The Cantata Choir of Flowood Church, Flowood, will present their Easter musical on March 27 at 7 p.m. and March 28 at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call Janice Cook at (601) 992-3711 (home) or 932-8090 (work).

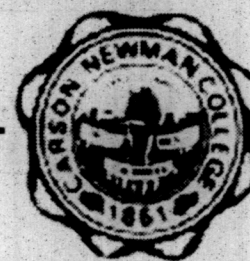
Galilee First, Gloster, is celebrating for the next five months its 175th year of ministry to the citizens of Gloster and the World through Missions Giving. The 3rd Sunday of each month will be a special day of celebration beginning April 18 and climaxing with Homecoming Sunday, Aug. 15. Sammy Smith is pastor.

Lighthouse Church, Richland, is planning "Old Fashioned Day" on March 28. Sunday School high attendance at 9:45 a.m. A children's play entitled "Jesus Before Pilate" will be presented at 11 a.m. Other activities include dinner on the grounds at noon and singing by the New Life Singers of Hattiesburg at 1:30 p.m. Revival will be held April 25-30. Sammy J. McDonald is pastor. For more information, call (601) 845-1792 or 939-2771.



Cedar Grove Church, Marion Association, held a ground breaking ceremony as a part of the morning worship service on Jan. 17. The ceremony commemorated plans that are being made to renovate the sanctuary. Pictured (front row, from left) are Brenda Stringer, building committee; Dan Speights, chairman, building committee; Frank Breland, building superintendent; Mike Grenn, pastor; Bill Stringer, contractor; Chick Bourne, building committee; Bob May, chairman, finance committee; (back row) J. T. Blansett Sr., MerriAnne Fortenberry, and David May, building committee; Elois Blansett, treasurer; Patsy Speights, Keith Stuckey, Mable Jones, and James Bryant, finance committee.

CARSON-NEWMAN COLLEGE



JEFFERSON CITY, TENN. 37760
423/475-9061

The Board of Trustees of Carson-Newman College, a nationally recognized, private, liberal arts college, strongly committed to its Baptist heritage, seeks a president to succeed Dr. J. Cordell Maddox who is retiring after 22 years of exemplary service.

Located in Jefferson City, Tennessee, with a full-time faculty of around 120 and some 2300 students, Carson-Newman College offers degrees in 60 majors including graduate degrees in Education and Nursing and an associate degree in Christian Ministries. Fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Carson-Newman College emphasizes academic excellence within a supportive Christian environment expressed through innovative teaching and advising, scholarly and creative works, mentoring of students, and service to the Appalachian region.

The successful candidate will be an individual of integrity, wisdom, courage, and vision with significant senior level administrative experience, thorough knowledge of higher education, ability to articulate the importance of Christian values in today's higher education curriculum, effective fundraising skills, and a thorough knowledge of planning and finance.

Application materials consisting of a letter describing interest and experience, a curriculum vitae, and the names, addresses and phone numbers of five references will be accepted immediately with review to begin April 1, 1999. The successful candidate will begin service August 1, 1999.

Inquires, nominations, and applications should be sent in confidence to:

Dr. Marvin Cameron, Chair
Presidential Search Committee
P.O. Box 557
Carson-Newman College
Jefferson City, TN 37760



Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, held ground breaking services for an education building on Jan. 31. Pictured (from left) are Harvey Magee, Terry Walker, Joe Jordan, Lloyd Case, Nelson Chance, Kenny Goza, Calvin Smith, Larry Mills, Joe Speights, Bobby Furr, Gary Stewart, Danny Berry, Lowell LeDoux, Tony Laird, Carroll Douglas, Verdo Callender, Duane Allred, and Bendon Ginn, pastor.

CHURCH PEWS & FURNITURE CO.



★ Cushions ★ Baptisries
★ Steeples ★ Renovation
★ Pews and Pulpit
Furniture
(New and Used)

Wallace E. Foy

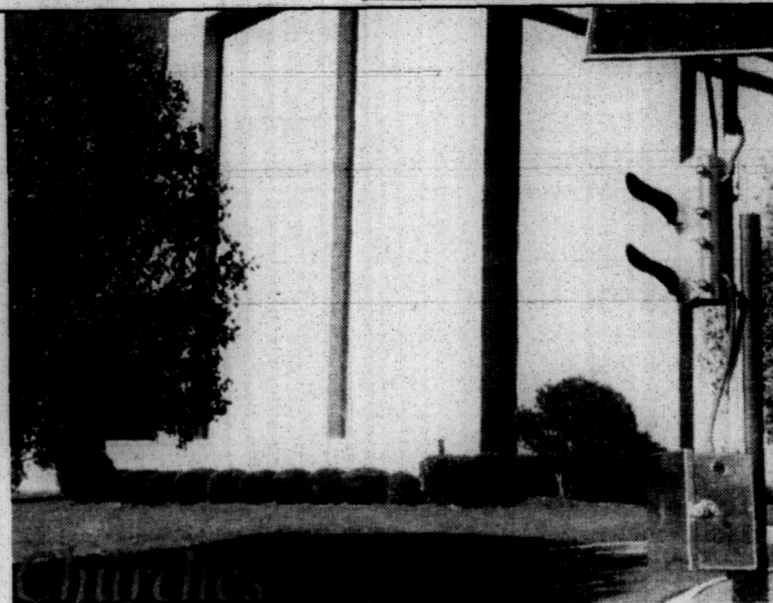
**WATTS 1-800-898-0551
Jackson 957-3762**

Crossgates Baptist Church Brandon, MS 39042

Protecting their membership from "fast moving" traffic by using two Model 110's. These systems feature 50 watt solar powered, battery energy, with double 8" yellow LED flashing lights and timer module. Crossgates was especially pleased with this system over conventional electric power because of substantial installation savings and the elimination of monthly utility bills.

SAFETY ASSIST LIGHTS

- Churches
- State Highways
- County Roads
- Interstates
- City Streets
- Schools



Manufactured by K&K Systems, Inc.

Call us today for a free estimate.
601-842-4476 or toll free 888-414-3003
fax: 601-842-4143
Visit our website at www.k-k-systems.com

Courses to be offered in Mississippi by NOBTS

Two courses designed to assist church leaders will be offered at five locations in Mississippi by New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS). These courses are made available as part of the Church Leadership Certificate Program, designed to provide specialized, short-term training for leaders of local churches.

The courses will meet for two hours, 7-9 p.m., each week for eight weeks.

"Discipling Church Members" is a course that is designed to familiarize students

with issues regarding discipleship as a function of the church. Various methods will be surveyed. The emphasis of the course will be on personal discipleship development. This course will begin Monday, March 29 at the following locations:

Golden Triangle Association office at 560 Willowbrook Rd., Columbus; Broadmoor Church, Jackson; First Church, Purvis; and First Church, Booneville.

"Old Testament Interpretation: Solomon to Malachi" will be an introductory and exegeti-

cal course. This course will also be offered at the Golden Triangle Association office in Columbus, beginning on Tuesday, March 30.

For registration information,

contact the College of Undergraduate Studies at New Orleans Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126 or by phone at 1-800-662-8701, ext. 3323.

STAFF CHANGES

Mt. Zion Church, Taylorsville, has called **Keith M. Thompson** as pastor effective March 14. Thompson, a native of Petal, is a graduate of William Carey College and

New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was New Hope Church, Sumrall.

First Church, Oloh, Sumrall, has called **Mark King** as minister of music. He is a native of Petal. His previous place of service was Green's Creek Church. He is manager of the group "Forgiven by Grace."

Doug Applegate is the new pastor at First Church, Lexington. He is a graduate of Mid-America Seminary, Memphis. Applegate previously served at Holly Grove Church, Cooter, Mo.

W. W. Boggan, retired minister, dies

Wilson William Boggan, 83, a retired minister, died Feb. 19 in Pascagoula. Boggan, also a retired home missionary with the North American Mission Board, served for almost 17 years as a missionary to the Chickasaw and the Choctaw Indians in Oklahoma.



Boggan

The memorial service, held at the Holder-Wells Funeral Home in Moss Point, was offi-

ciated by Boggan's pastor, Adrian Pater, First Church, Moss Point.

Funeral services and burial were held at the Macedonia Church in Mendenhall.

Survivors include his wife Wilma Allbritton Boggan,

Pascagoula; daughter, Elizabeth Luellen Howard, Birmingham, Ala.; sons, Elvis W. Boggan, Clayton, Calif., Richard D. Boggan, Augusta, Ga., and James C. McLeod, Alexandria, Va.; 13 grandchildren; and eight great grandchildren.

REVIVAL DATES

First, Kosciusko: March 28-31; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 12:20 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Phil Walker, Madison, evangelist; Faye Wiggers, First Church, Kosciusko, music; Barry C. Corbett, pastor.

Hopewell (Choctaw): March 26-28; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m., covered dish lunch at noon; Barney Watkins, evangelist; Tommy Allen, pastor.

Dublin, Carson: March 28-31; Sunday, regular services; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mike Alexander, McComb, evangelist; Rob Schepers, Prentiss, music; Charles Guy, pastor.

Wheeler Grove, Corinth: March 28-31; 7 p.m. nightly; Harvey Reeves, staff evangelist. Kara Blackard, pastor.

First, Tunica: March 28-31; services, nightly at 7 p.m. and noon meeting Mon.-Wed. with lunch; S. A. "Sonny" Adkins, director, Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Allen Harris, music; Danny Smith, interim pastor.

Double Springs, Maben: March 28-31; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Irvin, Mathiston, evangelist; Martin "Shorty" Carden, Mathiston, music; John S. Foles, pastor.

Spring Creek, Philadelphia: April 11-14; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m.; Randy Isbell, Savannah, Tenn., evangelist; Wayne King, pastor.

CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 50 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads. **ONLY WRITTEN ADS ACCEPTED.**

WE SPECIALIZE IN VANS Featuring 6 to 15 passenger vans, customized and panel vans. Daily and weekly rates. Auto & Truck Rental, Jackson (601) 948-3391. Since 1965.

CFI — PEWS, NEW & used. Baptistries, steeples, & stained glass, MS & ALA. 1-800-830-0583. **YOUTH OUTINGS?** Outdoor paintball games! Year-round! 10 years experience. Book yours today! Curry Creek Outdoors, 1161 Old Hwy 49, Seminary, MS 39479. (601) 722-9000.

WANTED: MISSIONARY MINDED couple to serve the Lord in a home caring for children needing a place to live. This evangelical organization has been meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of children for 103 years. Not a behavior modification facility. Competitive salary and other compensations which include housing, food, insurance, and retirement. Call Mr. Taylor at Palmer Home for Children (601) 328-5216.

SEEKING FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC/YOUTH. Send resumes to First Baptist Church P.O. Box 352, Hamburg, Arkansas 71646.

GROWING 5,000 MEMBER CHURCH in Georgia is adding to their ministerial staff and accepting applications for the following positions: minister of education, minister of administration, minister to college, minister to singles, minister to middle school, orchestra director, and ladies' counselor. For more information or to send a recommendation, contact Christy Murphy, Cascade Hills Baptist Church, 727 54th Street, Columbus, GA 31904 or call Rick Milner at (706) 327-5743 ext 18.

CUSTOM STAINED GLASS windows for churches and homes. Stained Glassworks, Inc. 1-800-605-2970.

FULL-TIME STUDENT MINISTER POSITION. New Chapel Hill Baptist Church, West Monroe, LA. Please fax resume to (318) 396-1004.

GROUPS - CALL KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM RESORT, Eureka Springs, Ark, for front seats at The Great Passion Play, plus lodging, recreation, and meals, all for just \$35.00 each! Free information - 501-253-8418.

FOR SALE fiberglass baptistry including heater, \$400.00. If interested call 601-489-6551

MT. PARAN CHURCH is seeking full-time pastor. Send resumes to: Search Committee, P.O. Box 62, Shongaloo, LA 71072.

CHRISTIAN MOVIES The very best videos at discount prices. CALL 828-891-2767. "Pamela's Prayer" plus many others. Complete CATALOG at: www.ChristianFilms.com.

DANIEL MEMORIAL CHURCH has for sale at minimal prices: 50 used choir robes, lt. blue with navy/ivory stoles. 150 used 1991 Baptist Hymnals. Contact Allen Sims, 601-376-4100.

POSITION AVAILABLE: Hodge Baptist Church, Hodge, Louisiana is seeking an individual to serve as Minister of Music and Youth. Please send resumes to Search Committee, Hodge Baptist Church, P.O. Drawer 340, Hodge, Louisiana 71247.

BRANSON, MO CONDO sleeps 6. Stay 3 nights, 4th night free or stay 5 nights and get 2 extra nights free. Free in-house coffee and tea. \$100.00 daily inc. tax. Register for free return trip and 3 king quilts. 601-746-4632.

SAVANNAH (GA) BAPTIST ASSOCIATION is accepting resumes through March 30, 1999, for an Associational Missionary. Send to Rev. Everett Tumblin, 1805 East Gwinnett St., Savannah, GA 31404. A profile is available.

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SOUTH JACKSON CHURCH is seeking a part-time Minister of Youth. The church is looking for a bi-vocational person or a student to lead in this ministry. Please send resumes to Personnel Committee, Griffith Memorial Baptist Church, 5275 Terry Rd., Jackson, MS 39212. **MINISTER OF MUSIC/YOUTH.** For additional information call (228) 769-2789. Arlington Heights Baptist Church, Pascagoula, MS or (228) 769-6989.

VINYL SIDING

NO DOWN PAYMENT - 100% FINANCING

• ROOFING **EXPERT WORK**
• ROOM ADDITION
• BATH-DEN
• KITCHEN
• CARPORT
• SENIOR CITIZENS DISCOUNT

CALL 1-888-373-0054
PAY-less Home Improvements

Are you paying too much for your Medical Insurance or Prescription Drugs? If yes, Call Today!

Major Hospital & Surgical Plan

Helps pay benefits for: Hospital Room, Intensive Care, Surgery, Ambulance.

Medicare Supplement

Ages 65 and over. Low Rates!

Prescription Drug Plan

You Pay: \$10.00 for Generic
\$20.00 for Name Brand
Drug Plan pays the rest up to a maximum benefit of \$5,000 per family per year.

Honored at Walmart, Freds, Super D and many more!

NO WAITING PERIOD... GUARANTEED ACCEPTANCE

Call today for free information:

E.F. Hutton Insurance Marketing

PO Box 5127, Brandon, MS 39047

1-800-880-2305

Medicare Supplement under age 65



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

WOULD JESUS APPROVE?

Editor:

I would like to say this before I die. I went to my great-granddaughters' pool party not long ago. They are four and five years old, and the pool was full.

There was at least twice that everyone was standing up pulling their bikinis out of their backsides and it was going on all the time and I just sat there and knew that God was looking. I guess they are not even making bathing suits anymore.

I wonder if Jesus would approve. The children are not supposed to rule. The parents are supposed to bring them up under the rules of God.

I would like to see a day when God would see to it that all the bikinis would be burned in a pit. No wonder young boys are killing people when the church and everybody says so plainly, "Anything goes."

Walterine Atkinson
Philadelphia

HELP MINISTERS, FAMILIES

Editor:

If the statistics are correct, a vast number of Southern Baptist ministers serve in churches that are small, rural, and financially strapped.

Often these men, who serve these small congregations, are comparable in education and ability to those who pastor larger and wealthier churches.

Every honest person recognizes the internal politics of pastoral selection and the employment of those who work for the various Southern Baptist agencies. This is not fair, but it is the reality.

Clearly the disparity between those who represent the lowest and the highest, in terms of total compensation, is astronomical.

Many fine men who pastor these smaller congregations struggle to provide for their families. Many of these churches are either oblivious or apathetic to their pastor's plight.

This situation is especially true in regards to health care. I have a suggestion concerning this matter.

I recommend that the Southern Baptist Convention, through the Annuity Board and state conventions, provide at "no" cost to every pastor and his family who chooses to participate, a basic, no frills, health plan and coverage.

This would prevent families from suffering and enable a pastor to seek God's will without the concern of health care cost and coverage hanging over his head. Also, this would help remove some of the inequity between Southern Baptist ministers as it exists today.

It is time that we use some of the sacred money of the Cooperative Program to help those in need who feed the sheep.

Andy Brasher
Como

LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES

Editor:

The fact that I am able to say something positive about the entertainment industry surprises me. I have seen the movie Prince of Egypt twice and responded to it with tears and emotion brought forth by the fantastic representation of the power of God.

As I read the opinion article (in the Feb. 18 issue of) The Baptist Record, some points came to mind. First, if the movie had been made exactly parallel to the text, it would have only been about twenty minutes long. Secondly, the Exodus story is not a Christian story. The story is for Christians, undoubtedly, but the story is Jewish. There are so many ways the filmmakers could have portrayed the character of Moses, but the humility that he displayed in this film was very fitting.

Of all the millions of historical accounts of so many different stories of the past, I am

proud, as a Christian, that the makers of this film chose a biblical story. If someone opened their Bible for the first time in a long time, or for the first time ever after watching this movie, then the Lord did his work. I truly believe the Lord can use anything to minister, even the works of non-believers.

Christians need to look for opportunities that God provides, not criticize one of the few things in our secular society that promotes some sort of faith.

Anne Adair Coon
Clinton

Y2K: BE PREPARED

Editor:

I am surprised and a bit disappointed in your reporting on the potential problems of Y2K. I particularly take offense at Mr. Steve Hewitt's comment that "Christians are leading the panic attack in America."

While the Bible and my own life experiences have taught me that God provides for his children it is irresponsible of your newspaper to portray an attitude of unconcern.

Please consider Pro. 1:32, that says "complacency of fools shall destroy that," and Pro. 6:6-11, which tells us not only not to be lazy but that procrastination will bring unexpected disaster. Finally Psalms 46:1-2 states God is our refuge and strength, therefore we will not fear.

Don't be scared, be prepared. Think of the impact you could have on a nonbeliever if you are able to provide powered milk for her baby, water, or food for your neighbor, or even shelter if they have no heat. If problems from Y2K arise and we are ready, the opportunities for Christian witness will be enormous.

On the other hand, if Mr. Hewitt is right, and I pray he is, what have you lost? Maybe you will not have to buy canned goods for a while, or better yet you could donate them to your local soup kitchen or homeless shelter.

Kelly Brown
Union Church

TRANSLATING THE BIBLE

Editor:

The many letters written concerning the controversy of new and newer Bible translations have caused me to consider the devoted and dedicated Wycliffe Bible Translators, as well as many of our Southern Baptist missionaries, who undergo intense training to be able to translate the Bible into a tribal dialect or language, who have chosen to live among people whose ways are strange, and who often struggle for hours and days to ascertain a specific and often peculiar wording so God's Word will be absolutely clear for someone of a completely different culture who does not know Jesus Christ.

How thankful I am that we can study God's Word in many translations and then ask him to reveal its divine meaning to us. My concern is that we Christians are able to differentiate between good Bible translations and evil, such as referring to God as "she," etc.

When I read how the paraphrased Living Bible came into being — that a father loved his children so much he would translate the Scriptures into words they could better understand and love Jesus more — I am amazed and encouraged.

M. Griffith
Brandon

Are your seniors tired of crawling over the HUMP? The solution is a 15-passenger van with an aisle, raised roof & electric step.



Call Tri-State Van & Bus Today! 1-800-330-3622
BUSES! VANS! PEOPLE MOVERS!

Safety First.
And Second.
And Third...




Mississippi Valley Gas Company
PURE AND SIMPLE

MINISTER WITH CHILDREN:

Second-Ponce de Leon (SPdL) Baptist Church of Atlanta, Georgia is seeking a Minister with Children. This person will serve as one of twelve Pastoral Staff team ministry equippers. SPdL is a 3,600 member congregation in north Atlanta drawing people from 108 zip codes throughout the metro region. Offering both traditional and contemporary approaches to worship, SPdL offers its members the choice to support missions and ministries through either the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or the Southern Baptist Convention and ordains women and men to the diaconate. Applicants should have a seminary degree, professional experience in Baptist congregational leadership with children's ministry, awareness of the contemporary challenges facing children and their families, and a desire to build a team of children's teachers & leaders. Resumes with references should be sent to: Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Minister with Children Search Committee, 2715 Peachtree Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30305.

Deadline is April 28, 1999



point of grace

Sunday • April 11, 1999 • 3 PM
Mississippi Coliseum • Jackson, MS

Ticket Prices: \$18.50 and \$14.50
Available at the Coliseum Box Office or by calling Ticketmaster at (800) 355-5252
(Convenience charge applies at Ticketmaster)

Group Prices (15+): \$16.50 and \$12.50
Available at Family Christian Store, Metro Location, Baptist Book Store & Coliseum
(Convenience charge applies at Bookstores)

ALL TICKETS RESERVED SEATING
For More Information Call: (601) 353-0603

Sponsored by the Hinds Community College Development Foundation
Proceeds Benefit The Campaign for Hinds

LIFE AND WORK

Following the suffering Savior

Mark 15:22-34, 37-39

By Doug Bain

Mark's report of the crucifixion was presented to his community (possibly in Rome) several decades after the Jesus Event. The nature of this report implies that we have here not only a "portrait" but also a "proclamation," with a message coded into the account.

Jesus' crucifixion occurred historically, providing the occasion for our reconciliation, but it also set the pattern for the life of the believer. The cross is the means for our transformation as well as for our salvation. The study of this passage keeps both truths in view.

What an incredible lesson

for those immersed in "consumer capitalism." Since the turn of the century the public has been subjected to the marketing strategy of "created dissatisfaction" so the overabundance from increased production can be consumed.

Living sacrificially? Denying ourselves? Carrying the cross? From our uninhibited consumer posture how do we possibly follow Christ? We don't, until he is "formed in us," including the pattern of sacrificial living.

Crucified (vv. 22-24). Soldiers brought Jesus to "the place of the skull" to receive their most degrading form of public capital



Bain

punishment. Jesus chose to retain full awareness, not to escape, even when offered a sedative. (The wine, v. 36, was for thirst.)

Although religious people had pressed the charges, Roman soldiers applied crucifixion machinery to Jesus, even gambling over how his clothes should be divided.

Paul's comment in Galatians 2:20 about "being crucified with Christ" suggests that our selfish nature ("flesh") is put to death as we identify with Jesus.

Insulted (vv. 25-32). As Jesus hung on the cross, he was taunted by bandits hanging beside him, by religious leaders, and by others passing by.

Those who said "he cannot save himself" had it wrong. He would not save himself, not at the expense of lost humanity nor of truth. He limited his power and sacrificed himself, not lash-

ing out in hostility or self protection. Bold discipleship reflects the life pattern of this Jesus!

Forsaken (vv. 37-39). This segment, occurring at high noon, marks the passing of the first three hours of crucifixion.

Jesus' cry of feeling forsaken, as he quoted Hebrew scripture, can open much discussion. (Jesus the Son, as the second person of the Trinity, is here seen in his divinity, yet also distinct from God the Father.) Feelings of forsakenness will be part of the faithful believer's experience, but are always in the context of God's certain promise never to forsake us.

Finished (vv. 37-39). Breathing his last, Jesus gave a loud cry. "It is finished," according to John — one word expressed by the Greek perfect tense — an accomplished fact with eternal consequences. The rending of the curtain symbolizes the unveiling of unhindered access to the Father, the

way forever open to whosoever will! Even a Roman centurion confesses faith in Jesus' identity. The perspective observer today will call attention to Jesus as God's Supreme Representative, his "Son." Such is the pattern of bold discipleship.

King Frederick William III of Prussia was in serious financial trouble because war had been expensive. He asked the women of his country to bring their gold jewelry to be melted down and gave them a small iron medallion as a token of gratitude, imprinted with "I gave gold for iron, 1813."

The response was overwhelming. This gift from the king was prized more highly than jewelry. Jewelry even became unfashionable, but the iron medallion was a badge of sacrificial loyalty. How do Christian believers show evidence of sacrificial loyalty?

Bain is chairman and professor of the Biblical Division at Blue Mountain College.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Where God is

Psalms 42:1-11

By Ken Hester

"How To" books fill the shelves in this self-help world. You can learn How To Give Away Your Faith or How To Read the Bible for All Its Worth or How to Get the Rock Bottom Price for Your Car. These books and others give information to develop skills, improve one's appearance, and construction. These writers' knowledge prove helpful, but they miss the bigger issues of life. David, along with the Levite singers of the Korah family, knew how to survive seclusion and dejection.

David wrote Psalm 42 while running for his life from his son Absalom. David charged the Korah family to sing this instructional hymn. They understood seclusion and dejection as the

surviving members of the family that the Lord punished by opening up the earth to swallow them (Numbers 26:8-11). How do we survive hard times? This psalm has a way.

Seclusion desires public worship. The poet, Southey, once said, "I could believe in Christ if He did not drag behind Him His leprous bride, the Church." What repulsed Southey, revived David. When the believer becomes a casualty of this cutthroat world, she/he runs toward the One who always accepts him/her.

Faith runs toward God (vv. 1-3). David's use of the metaphor "thirst" informs readers of the necessity of worship. One can live longer without food than without water. Communing



Hester

with the Living Water nourishes the essentials of our soul. Though many come to church regularly, how many of us come to church expectantly? David desired to encounter God.

Faith also remembers touching God (v. 4).

David reflected upon his past joys of public worship. Remembering those joyous times strengthened David's faith. This strengthened faith resolved to trust God (5).

The phrase, "Why are you in despair," (NASB) or "Why art thou cast down" (KJV), literally asks, "Why press down yourself?" With the freedom, forgiveness, and strength available to the believer, the soul needs never to buckle to circumstances. When, however, you do feel like giving up, resolve to trust in God's hope and in God's help. Public worship may be your desire, but sometimes we are left dejected and alone, but not helpless.

Dejection drives private worship. Though you may be apart from the family of faith, the Lord can still embrace his children one at a time. In the prayer closet, you can experience your personal revival. Private worship raises the conquered soul.

Present despair causes one to reflect on past joy (v. 6). David recalled three important landmarks of faith: the Jordan, Mount Hermon, and Mount Mizar.

The Jordan River evoked recollection of God's goodness in giving the Israelites the Promised Land. The peaks of Hermon aroused the memory of God's power as he defeated kings of the Amorites and the Bashan in the Israelites march to occupy the land. Some think Mount Mizar is the place near Mount Sinai where the Lord gave the 10 Commandments. These benchmarks encouraged David trust in God.

David's despair also caused him to realize his pity (v. 7). "Waterspouts" were weak but frightening funnel clouds on

water. David describes his situation as trouble from above and trouble from below. These places of turmoil seemed overwhelming. So, David confessed his weakness and gained strength. Private worship renews the committed servant's faith.

The faithful count on God's character (8). They trust that since God has not let them down in the past, he will not let them down now.

The faithful also confess their confusion (9-10). David revealed that his faith could be loyal in the midst of questions. Unanswered questions do not necessarily kill faith. In fact, those questions prompt us to live by faith and not by sight.

Even though David had questions, even though David was still in seclusion, and even though David was still rejected by his son and country, David committed himself to trust God. The faithful commit the conclusion of their lives to God (11).

Hester is pastor of Mantee Church, Mantee.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Share life

John 4:7, 9-15, 28-30, 39-40

By Beth W. Cape

Water. How good it is but why does it have to be so heavy? Everyday I have to travel down this hot and dusty road carrying this heavy water. I suppose I shouldn't complain. After all I'm only a woman and that is my lot in life. What a long walk it was that day when I met Jesus, that day I'll never forget.

The women in the town were not friendly to me in those days so it was better for me to wait until the middle of the day when no one else was around to go and get water. When I finally arrived

at the well carrying my empty water jar, I was surprised to see a Jewish man sitting there all alone. He didn't even have a jar to get any water. He looked tired and thirsty. I was so surprised when he turned to me and said, "Give me a drink." Didn't he know I was a Samaritan? Everyone knows that Samaritans and Jews have been bitter enemies for the last 400 years. Why would he talk to me? Besides that, I'm a woman! Didn't he know how Jews feel about women? I've heard that Rabbinic law says that a man cannot talk



Cape

with a woman in public, not even his wife, sister or daughter. We've all heard that old saying, "Better that the words of the law should be burned than delivered to women." Didn't this man know that he was supposed to hate me?

If he knew all about me, he would hate me even more. Yet, all that didn't seem to matter to him. He looked at me as if he knew me and told me about some "living water," water that would make me never thirst again. Wouldn't that be great? No more walking down that long, dusty road for water everyday! I didn't really believe he could have magic water but, you never know! So I asked him to give me some of that living water. Then he changed the subject. He asked

me to go get my husband and come back. I didn't like that too much. I knew that it wouldn't do for him to know all about me and about my past. So I told him I didn't have a husband. Imagine my shock when he told me about my five husbands and how the one I lived with then was not my husband! How could he have known? Could he see inside my mind? I knew then that he must be a prophet.

As we talked more I asked him about the long awaited Messiah. Never did I dream that his words would be, "I who speak to you am he." Just then his disciples came back. I expected them to question Jesus or myself as to why we were speaking but they didn't say anything. They only looked surprised. I guess by now they were accustomed to Jesus' untraditional behavior. I was so

excited that I left my water pot behind and ran all the way to the city. I told the men about the Christ who told me everything I had ever done. Normally, these men would not have cared to listen to me, but in this case, they listened and went to talk to Jesus themselves.

Now I want to tell everyone! The Messiah has come. The Christ! He talked to me. He cared about me. Me, a Samaritan, a woman, a sinner. I believe in the Christ. I will never thirst again. Water! Living water!

"And from that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, 'He told me all the things that I have done.'" John 4:39

Cape is director of children and family ministry at First Church, Picayune.



Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
copyright 1999

MLOTCR SDLVMUAHUM
RNUVUBDVU RD XDY.
VUMCMR RNU YUHCA,
WKY NU JCAA BAUU
BVDT SDL.

FWTUM BDLV: MUHUK

Clue: S = Y

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Ephesians Three: Six.

Parents help to resurrect basketball dream

LIBERTY, Mo. (BP)—A few weeks ago, every kid's dream came true for Larry Hall: he picked up Sports Illustrated and read an article about himself.

The publicity isn't new for Hall, the heart of the men's basketball team at William Jewell College. An article in Slam magazine is due out in early April, and Dick Vitale's "Inside College Basketball" featured Hall last season.

In this season's edition, Vitale identified Hall as the "one 2 watch" in the entire National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). In both Vitale publications, Hall was selected as a preseason All-American.

Last season, he became Jewell's fourth first team NAIA Division II All-American. Hall, a 6'3" center from Keatchie, La., joined the Jewell team in 1997 as a transfer student from Louisiana State University-Shreveport, an NAIA Division I school. After his sophomore year, when he led the nation in scoring — at 29.2 points per game — and was third in rebounding — 13.1 per game — the college dropped men's and women's basketball.

That left Hall, the most dominant player in the NAIA, with a whole lot of talent and nowhere to play. Hall had played against Jewell at a holiday tournament in Kansas City in 1996. After talking with Jewell coach Larry Holley, he decided to transfer in the off-season to the Baptist-affiliated college in Liberty, Mo.

When the game's fate hangs in the balance, Hall is the go-to guy. Sometimes he has been the hero, like the time he sank a shot at the buzzer to defeat Concordia College. Or like the time he scored 42 points in one game. Or like the game when he reached the 1,000-point mark in less than

two seasons of play — the fastest player to reach that mark in Jewell history.

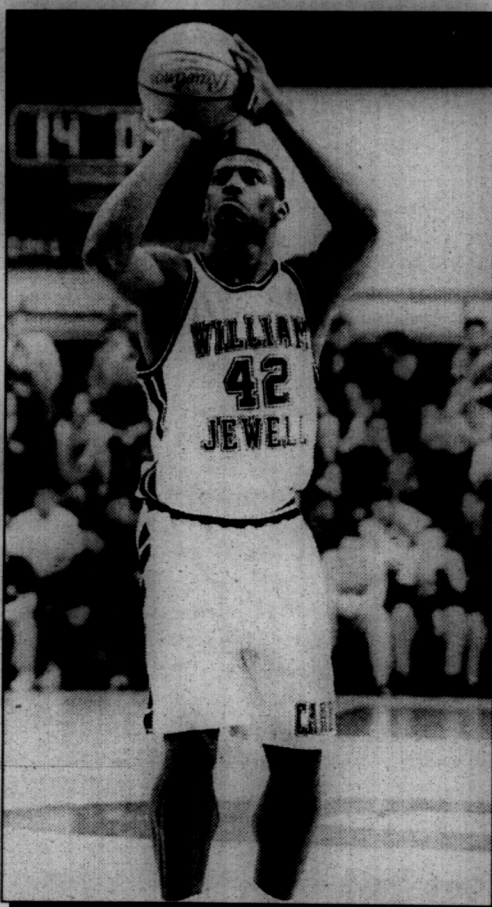
Hall said God sees him through the ups and downs of being a star athlete. "God gets all the credit. He gave me my athletic ability, and I know my success is possible only through him."

He was dreaming of playing for a college powerhouse when life took an awful turn. While working at a local Kmart, he was pushing a line of shopping carts connected by a bungee cord. The cord snapped and hit him in the right eye. He would never see out of the eye again.

The colleges backed off, and Hall's dream died. "I wanted to give up on everything," he recalled. "I never thought I would play ball again." When he was at his lowest point, his parents, Larry Sr. and Rose, with some help from God, rescued him.

"My parents really encouraged me to pick up the ball again. When I wanted to stay in bed, they made me get up and try."

His road back to the top took a long time. "I doubted my ability," he said. "Playing was really hard at first; I kept bricking shots and I couldn't tell where my defenders were."



Hall

With time and a lot of practice, Hall's natural ability came through, and he started to dream again. He enrolled at LSU-Shreveport, and the rest is history.

He believes he's a better player now because of the injury.

"I practice all the time, before and after team practice," he said.

The practice paid off. Hall finished the season 12th in NAIA rankings in scoring, with a 23.19 points-per-game average, and sixth in rebounding, with a 10.56 average, on a team that tallied a 24-11 record.

He was selected as the Heart of America Athletic Conference player of the week three times this season.

Now, Hall is hoping for a career in professional basketball overseas after graduation. Eventually, he'd like to work as a youth counselor.

"I feel like I've been tremendously blessed, and with some of the things I've overcome, I can inspire kids to never give up, no matter how bad the situation seems," he said.

Bible designed with visual aids for teen appeal

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — If your kids aren't interested in reading the KJV, NIV, RSV or even the Good News translations of the Bible, perhaps you could tempt them to indulge in a cartoon interpretation.

Broadman & Holman (B&H)

Publishers has released a Bible designed in comic strip format to entice teenagers — ages 14 and up — to partake in God's Word. B&H, the trade book division of LifeWay Christian Resources, purchased the rights from a British publishing firm,

Lion, to sell the Graphic Bible in North America and Canada.

"This is a Bible for kids who are losing interest in Sunday School or who have never set foot in a church," said Dee Ann Grand, manager for B&H children's products. "It's a Bible that will appeal to kids who are comic book lovers or who like to read graphic novels."

Adults who pick up one of the 256-page Bibles for their children shouldn't be surprised to find they don't want to fork it over.

"You know those cereal commercials where the parents can't quit eating their kids' breakfast? This Bible is kind of like that. Once you pick it up and start reading it, you don't want to give it back," Grand said.

The Graphic Bible's artist is well-known British illustrator Jeff Anderson, who has worked for Marvel UK and drawn the DC comic character Judge Dredd. The writer, also British, is Mike Maddox, who has scripted for DC Comics of the Batman and Superman fame. Both are Christians.

"Once I became a Christian, this just seemed like a dream project," said Anderson, who worked on the Graphic Bible project more than five years. "Just getting started took six months. I did more than I normally would as an illustrator."

"The special thing was breaking each bit down into

parts. I spent a couple of hours a day reading (the Bible), making thumbnails, thinking about angles."

The Graphic Bible is divided into about 100 biblical episodes, from the Creation to John's vision of Jesus' second coming.

Anderson said the Bible is a natural for graphic illustration.

"It has such great stories. I could have made it five times as long."

The Graphic Bible, Grand said, is B&H's way of enticing teenagers away from their computer games and television sets and into the Word.

"We want to pull kids away from the computer screen by showing them that the Bible has just as much action and drama as those awful movies they love," Grand said.

After all, the Holy Bible does portray some famous rifts, like the ones between Cain and Abel, Jacob and Esau, Rachel and Leah, David and Goliath, Christ and Satan.

"Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown into a fiery furnace and Daniel was thrown to the lions, and they all lived," Grand said. "You can't get better drama than that. And there's even a happy ending."

The Graphic Bible can be purchased in LifeWay Christian Stores or can be ordered by calling toll-free (800) 233-1123.



YOUTH APPEAL — Broadman & Holman Publishers, the trade book division of LifeWay Christian Resources, has released a Bible designed in comic strip format to entice youngsters — ages 14 and up to read the Word. B&H bought the publishing rights from a British publishing firm to sell the 256-page "Graphic Bible" in North America and Canada. This illustration shows Jesus throwing the money changers from the temple. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)